

REGISTRATION SERVICE
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE: June 14, 1989

FULL NAME Ernest Lee VanFossen
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

S.S. NO. [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

CITY East Sparta STATE OH ZIP CODE 44626

DATE OF BIRTH 8-27-47 (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION Methodist NATIONALITY (Citizen of) United States

OCCUPATION School Bus Driver and reupholsterer

EDUCATION

WEIGHT HEIGHT 5'8" RACE Caucasian

COLOR OF HAIR Brown COLOR OF EYES Blue

ANY DISTINGUISHING PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS

MARRIED ☒ SINGLE ☐ NAME OF SPOUSE [REDACTED]

CHILDREN [REDACTED]
(Name, number, ages, if possible)

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

| UNIT # | CITY | STATE | POSITION | DATE REGISTERED | DATE RESIGNED |
|--------|-------------|-------|----------|-----------------|---------------|
| 0038 | East Sparta | OH | SM | 11/84 | 1/89 |

Chartered Organization East Sparta United Methodist Church

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

INCIDENT: TYPE 2 DATE OF INCIDENT 1/26/89 RESOLUTION 2/3/89
Type Resolution

- 1=Scout Related
- ②=Non-scout related
- 3=homosexual (not specifically with youth)

- 1. Internal (only Scouts Know)
- ②. Criminal action
- ③. Court action
- 4. Probationary status
- ⑤. Reported to state agency

Check off list of attached documentation

- 1. Description of incident
- 2. Victim(s) statement
- 3. media reports
- 4. Legal proceedings
- 5. Offender's statement
- 6. Official notification of termination
- 7. Found guilty/innocent by court

NOTED

JUL 17 1989

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

CONFIDENTIAL

JUN 21 1989

F. STARON

Council Buckeye

Signed [Signature]

SCOUT EXECUTIVE

38267-enc-11/3/88

CONF012485

July 21, 1989

READY FOR FILE

JUL 13 1989

JULIE EATON

Mr. Jack A. Johnson
Scout Executive
Juckeye Council, No. 436

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: ERNEST VAN FOSSEN

Dear Jack:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration Service

je

cc: East Central Region

CONF012486

May 3, 1989

READY FOR FILE

MAY 02 1989

A. GRAVES

Mr. Jack A. Johnson
Scout Executive
Buckeye Council, No. 435

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: ERNEST VAN FOSSEN

Dear Jack:

We appreciate the material you recently sent concerning the above named individual. It is always a difficult task to have to place individuals on the file, but we must do this to protect the youth of America.

I would like the enclosed confidential record sheet to be completed to the best of your ability, so that we may be able to identify Mr. Van Fossen. We would also like a copy of a paper with his signature, as this aids in the identification process. This would then complete our file.

Thanks for your help in protecting the youth of America.

Sincerely,

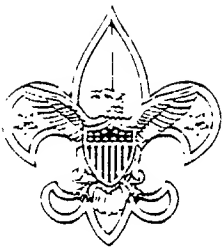
Paul Ernst, Director
Registration Service

enc

Enclosure

cc: East Central Region

CONF012487



BUCKEYE COUNCIL, INC. #436 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

5136 TUSCARAWAS STREET WEST

CANTON, OHIO 44708

PHONE 216-477-7248

April 27, 1989

Mr. Paul Ernst, Director
Registration and Subscription Service
National Council
Boy Scouts of America
1325 Walnut Hill Lane
P. O. Box 152079
Irving, Texas 75015-2079

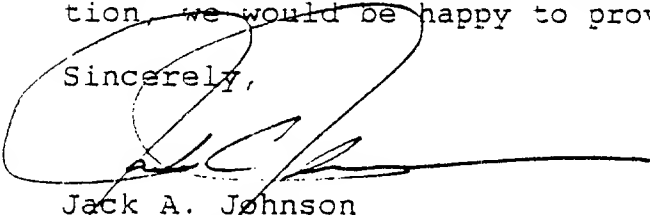
Dear Paul:

It is my unpleasant duty to ask you to add to our Confidential List a Scouter of the Buckeye Council. The gentleman in question is Mr. Ernest Van Fossen, age 41, residing at [REDACTED], East Sparta, Ohio 44626.

I am enclosing for your perusal an article that indicates that Mr. Van Fossen was found guilty of rape. We have suspended Mr. Van Fossen's registration with the Buckeye Council pending this ultimate outcome and a letter from our Council President has also been sent (copy enclosed).

If you would require any additional information or substantiation, we would be happy to provide.

Sincerely,

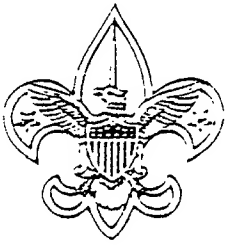

Jack A. Johnson
Scout Executive

JAJ:sm

Enclosures

*Added to Confidential List
4/28/89*





BUCKEYE COUNCIL, INC. #436 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

5136 TUSCARAWAS STREET WEST

CANTON, OHIO 44708

PHONE: (216) 477-7248

January 30, 1989

Sent registered mail,
return receipt requested
2/3/89

Mr. Ernest Van Fossen
[REDACTED]

East Sparta, Ohio 44626

Dear Mr. Van Fossen:

After careful review, we have decided that your registration with the Boy Scouts of America should be suspended. We are, therefore, compelled to request that you sever any relationships that you have with the Boy Scouts of America. A refund of your registration fee is enclosed.

You should understand that B.S.A. membership registration is a privilege and is not automatically granted to everyone who applies. We reserve the right to suspend registration whenever there is a concern an individual may not meet the high standards of membership which the B.S.A. seeks to provide for American youth.

If you wish to have this decision reviewed by a Council Review Committee, please write to me within sixty days of the date of this letter, explaining your version of the facts supporting your claim that your registration as a B.S.A. member should be reinstated. The procedures for review of this decision are enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Richard J. Egan
President

RJE:sm

Enclosures

bcc: Dominic Luccarelli
Ed Smietana
Bill Spice
Rev. Roger Wells
(East Sparta U. M. Church)
Glenn Mulvaney
(Committee Chairman)



CONF012489

Bus driver going to prison for rape

By M.L. SCHULTZE
Tribune staff writer

A Tuscarawas Valley School District bus driver and East Spar-ta Boy Scout leader has been sentenced to 10 to 25 years in prison for raping a 12-year-old boy who rode his bus.

A jury in Stark County Common Pleas Judge Sheila Farmer's court took just under three hours to find Ernest Van Fossen guilty of rape Monday afternoon. The jury apparently agreed with Assistant Prosecutor John Anthony that Van Fossen had reason to lie and the boy, who said Van Fossen molested him for a year, did not.

Throughout the three-day trial, Anthony said, no one — including Van Fossen — suggested a motive for the boy to make up the story.

"Quite the contrary," Anthony said. By telling his story, the boy faced "a great deal of embarrassment. ... Why would he put himself through that?"

But Van Fossen was lying to save himself, Anthony said.

Defense attorney James B. Lindsey contended the contradictions were in the boy's story, not in Van Fossen's.

He said the boy called Van Fossen his "friend" and wanted him at his birthday party nearly 11 months after the sexual attacks allegedly began.

Another key contradiction, Lindsey said, was time. The boy said Van Fossen told him it was 4:11 p.m. when he let the boy off the bus on Jan. 26, the date the rape allegedly happened. Van Fossen, his wife and his daughter's boyfriend all testified Van Fossen was home before 4 p.m. that day, Lindsey said.



ERNEST VAN FOSSEN

But a 12-year-old girl, not the attorneys, seemed to get the closest attention from the jury Monday morning. She and her mother, whom Anthony called as rebuttal witnesses, appeared to confirm what the boy had said on the stand Thursday and contradict what Van Fossen had said Friday.

The boy had testified that Van Fossen began molesting him in January 1988 and continued through Jan. 26 of this year. On Jan. 27, he told a school guidance counselor what happened, and Van Fossen was arrested.

The boy said the 41-year-old Van Fossen, whom the children called Ernie, would pull the bus into a dump east of the boy's home and have the boy perform oral sex. That was after Van Fossen dropped off the other two of the last

• BUS DRIVER 1-6

Bus driver guilty of rape

• From A-1

three children riding the afternoon route.

The homes of the other children lie between the boy's home and the dump, and one of those children testified Monday that she saw Van Fossen drive the bus toward the dump — in the opposite direction of the boy's home — with the boy on board Jan. 26.

She also testified she had seen the bus — with only the boy and Van Fossen on board — go east and come back about 15 or 20 minutes later frequently enough for her to ask the boy why it happened.

Van Fossen, who took the stand again Monday, acknowledged he sometimes took the bus in the opposite direction from the boy's home, but insisted that was because turning around in the girl's driveway was difficult in bad weather. So he'd go east to an intersection, turn around there and drive back west to the boy's home.

He insisted that took only three or four minutes, not 15 or 20, and he repeatedly denied going east on Jan. 26.

During heated cross-examination by Anthony, the prosecutor asked why Van Fossen testified

last week that he'd never have a reason to go east. For the first time during the trial, Van Fossen's composure appeared slightly shaken, and he said he didn't recall that testimony.

During his closing argument, Anthony pounded on the contradiction. "That little fact tells you a lot about that man's truthfulness," Anthony said.

"These witnesses place him alone on that bus with (the boy), heading back toward the dump right where (the boy) told you these things happened."

But Lindsey underscored a different contradiction in his closing.

Van Fossen, his wife and his daughter's boyfriend all were certain he was home early on Jan. 26, which wouldn't leave time for the sexual attack, he said.

That, said Lindsey, created the "reasonable doubt" that should have led to his client's acquittal. So did testimony from neighbors and friends — adults and children — that they trust Van Fossen.

Even Van Fossen's inability to explain why the boy would make up the story should work in his client's favor, Lindsey argued. If Van Fossen really were lying, said Lindsey, he would have come up with a reason.